

90
... from the cradle
of liberty... to the
tomb of fascism

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FOREWORD

From the City of Independence, almost two hundred valiant young men have gone to Spain, where a nation's people for eighteen months have fought against foreign aggression, against the calamity that is fascism. Many of them have written home; letters that are a new American literature. Some of these letters are reproduced here. They sound a call to Democracy far more eloquent than that of many a master of "fine writing." We know that all who love honor, who treasure freedom, will answer that call. After reading these letters, Spain's friends will rally to her cause, which is the world's

*Philadelphians
whose Triumph
in Life was
to Die for
Democracy*

●

KILLED IN SPAIN

Joseph Seligman, Jr.	Luigi Barrelli
Morris H. Wickman	Chester Mujianas
George Dyken	Dmitri Semenoff
John Johnson	Robert Greenleaf
Konstantinos Romanzes	Aino Petaya
Frank Watkins	

**To All People
of Philadelphia!**

Greetings from a group of your fellow townsmen who are now in Spain aiding the Spanish people in their fight for their freedom and their Republic!

You will soon celebrate July 4th, Independence Day, which symbolizes the freedom of the American people from British tyranny. In that fight, our ancestors were not alone. Thousands of people came across the Atlantic and died for our country. We are proud of people like Lafayette and Kosciusko, foreigners who helped Americans to defeat the British.

We Philadelphians, together with other hundreds of Americans who cherish Liberty, are carrying out the same mission here in the front lines, giving our help to the Spanish people in their fight for independence from the murderous barbarism of invading Fascism.

Right now, we, who have adopted the name of George Washington for our Battalion—a name that represents the struggle for democracy—are in a place where our comrades of the Lincoln Battalion have given their lives on the battlefield

George Washington
2nd American Battalion
June 20, 1937.

in order that democracy might live. Those brave heroes are the symbol of Americanism and the true sons of America.

We too stand ready to sacrifice everything so that peace and freedom may rule in Spain and the world over. With your hard work in the States, with a powerful united movement of all classes of people, regardless of their political and religious affiliations, we can — we will defeat fascism here in Spain and thus deal a deadly blow to world fascism.

We are confident that you will stand by your democratic sisters and brothers and help them to get this victory. Long live the Spanish Republic!

Signed:

M. H. Wickman
Al Handler
Leo Kaufman
Harold London
Ed Ahern
J. Drill
Karl Samuels

JOHN PARKS

in the

Hands of

the Enemy

Since February 28, 1937

IN July of 1936, Francisco Franco, commander of the Army in the Spanish zone of Morocco, led an armed revolt against the elected democratic government which he was sworn to defend. This act of treason grew swiftly into a ruthless war against the people of Spain. Tens of thousands of lives — of women and children no less than of men — have been brutally taken; cities ravaged and destroyed; a nation torn asunder; all Europe brought to the verge of catastrophic war. For this enormous crime Francisco Franco has been indicted by liberty-loving people the world over. And indictment has been followed by concrete action, in the trenches of Spain. The purpose of this volume is to acquaint Philadelphia with the heroic part played in the struggle against fascism by her native sons

(Letters have been placed in chronological order.)

NEWS HEADLINE:

PHILADELPHIA RECORD, April 23, 1937. Page 4:

"Rebel Company Massacres All Officers and Deserts To Loyalists"

"Insurgent Morale Cracks Under Hot Cordoba Offensive; 175 Infantrymen Go Over To Government; Madrid Guns Pound Villages"

At the front
April 24, 1937.

Dear Gladys.

I am very sorry to hear that you are having difficulties with your job. But fight them every inch of the way for your rights. Don't let them put you down.

Here is some news from the front. Two nights ago we held a radio water carnival. That is, we would get some unsuspecting person to deliver an oration over a make-believe radio microphone. At the least suspicious moment, the unlucky character would receive a water bath or shower on top of his crown. We met with great success, scoring about twenty victims (I was one of them)

The next morning about 5 a.m. I heard airplanes. Looking up, I saw two fascist planes circling our trenches. As nothing happened, I went back to sleep. To my surprise I learned later that they had dropped leaflets asking the International Brigade to desert to them and **FRANCO** would see that we were well taken care of and then shipped home. The nerve! Here his men have been deserting to us and he has the gall to think that we, members of the International Brigade, would go over to him!

The boys are in a pretty joyous mood. With all the tension around us, we still find time to play pranks and laugh. We laugh, we play, and we fight. Always on the alert for an attack, ready for any emergency.

This is about all I have time to write. So

Comradely yours,
Lou

On the Jarama Front
May 8, 1937.

Dear Pat:

Last night a few of us from the States were holding a chin-fest and someone raised the question of "why we came to Spain." After all had thought for a while, we reached the opinion that none of us really know why, but that we had come because of a deep feeling that to take up the fight here was the logical step from our battles on the picket lines.

Then we raised the question of whether we still had the same determination and enthusiasm with which we left the States. Some thought that because the veneer of light-headed singing and the Hip-Hip-Hurray stuff was no longer present that the determination and enthusiasm were waning. Others, that this meant that the men were soldiers of the working class and that the experience which they had gone through made them more determined and enthusiastic.

After a somewhat heated discussion, we reached a majority opinion that the whole bunch of us were better fighters because we had lost the school-boy attitude and that the present feeling was a clearer indication of the determination and enthusiasm than all the rah-rahing.

In your next letter, let's hear about York and what's interesting in the District.

Comradely,
Earl Lippo

NEWS HEADLINES:

PHILADELPHIA RECORD, May 1, 1937:

"Rebels Warn Refugee Convoys"

"British Warned Help in Evacuation of Bilbao Would Be Hostile Act"

"2000 Germans Land"

"Loyalist bombing planes sank the rebel battleship Espana. It was the first battleship ever sunk by aerial bombs."

PHILADELPHIA RECORD, May 7, 1937:

"Guns of British Warships Shield 2300 Children Fleeing From Bilbao"

"Basque Families Rushed to Haven on French Coast"

"Aragon Front Totters as Anarchist Revolt Saps Loyalists"

(From the article following these headlines we read that):

"The Basque fighters said they held 2000 rebels in a trap to the Northeast of the capital. They were reported to be Italian units of General Emilio Mola's army, and faced a slow starvation, a siege within a siege, unless they surrendered, the Basques asserted."

PHILADELPHIA RECORD, May 11, 1937:

"Rebels Capture Three Villages 10 Miles From Bilbao in Whirlwind Drive"

"Aguirre Leads Defenders in Storming Strategic Mountains"

(Lower on same page):

"Loyalists' Vanguard Reported in Toledo"

(Lower again, on same page):

"Duce 'Renews Wishes' For Franco's Triumph"

NEWS HEADLINES:

PHILADELPHIA RECORD, May 17, 1938:

"Communist Demands Balk New Spanish Cabinet"

"Premier Ends Attempts to Form Ministry"

(From article):

"Premier Largo Caballero refused to try to form a new Spanish Cabinet because of Communistic opposition to his plan to take over the war and defense posts in the Cabinet himself."

PHILADELPHIA RECORD, May 18, 1937:

"New 'Win The War' Cabinet is Completed by Loyalists: Moderate Socialist at Head"

"Anarchists and Caballero Excluded"

(From insert in main article):

"Italy Executes 200 for Mutiny in Spain, Paris Paper Reports"

May 17, 1937.

Comrades,

The great march of the world working class in unity with the Spanish people has halted the advance of world fascism. Every victory on every front draws us nearer to complete victory. And every demonstration in Philadelphia against Hitler and Mussolini encourages us here to advance more determined to conquer.

Our experience here has taught us that discipline and unity can defeat fascism. This principle will and can destroy the Fifth Column. Without discipline and unity we fail. This was seen in Germany, in Catalonia, in England, and in the USA.

Tell the comrades to learn now the value of discipline, of unity in the Trade Unions, in working class politics, in every activity. Without this we shall suffer, with this we shall conquer.

Tell the Negro people that their side of freedom is with the Spanish anti-fascists—with the oppressed of all lands united in Spain to make the tomb of fascism here. Appeals should be made to the Negro organizations for immediate action, for unity, for greater sacrifice. We find among the best fighters here the Negro anti-fascists. Many are leading and holding high positions who yesterday were strangers and today are the living symbol of united actions, accepted without question everywhere.

(1) Send us letters; (2) Have organizations write; (3) Send us cigarettes; (4) Put Philadelphia on the map in Spain.

Because we have not failed in our duty, we have proven that fascism could not pass; with greater support assured "WE SHALL PASS."

Yours for Freedom,

M. H. Wickman

Southern Spain
May 26, 1937

Dear Mother,

Salud! Only one letter from you. But I know you have written. Of course, one must understand that in war mail is delayed.

In the first place, I hope you are well. I am feeling just splendid. Went to the movies the other night—also went swimming and had a lot of fun. So, you see, I am not working hard. Right now I am in a danger zone.

We have plenty of food. The hospital where I am stationed is well-equipped under the circumstances. We have several goats and two mules for fetching water. Our water boy is only fourteen years old but looks much older. Went to work when he was still a baby—no schooling—and he is typical of 65 per cent of the people of Spain. Conditions here are similar to the conditions during the Czarist days of Russia. But thank goodness it is no more. Everywhere one goes the spirit of the people is wonderful. They know definitely why they are fighting and they surely will win. The daily news is encouraging. So I am sure that when we get back to the States victorious, you will forgive me for not telling you the truth.

Please take good care of yourself so you will be in a position to meet me on my home-coming. With love to everyone. My very best to Mother and Daughter and Sister.

Your,
Bertha

P.S. Our hospital is doing excellent work and the Spanish receive much encouragement thereby. If only the American people could all come down and see for themselves, they would intensify every campaign for the welfare of the Spanish people. And you should hear me speak Spanish. Oh, Boy! They ask for one thing and I give them another. But we are getting along fine.

Love and salud!

STEVE NELSON

Library
University of Texas
Austin, Texas

*Battalion Commander—Writes that
"Now Is The Time To Lose No Time"*

May 31, 1937.

Dear ———,

You know that war conditions will bring forth many problems. Here you have a very complicated situation and every sincere worker and anti-fascist can find plenty to do.

I have seen a group of comrades who have been at one of the fronts where they went through some real action. They were fellows from the USA and were about the most impressive group of men I have seen in a long while. Though they went through some tough grinding, they are in excellent spirits. They asked me many questions about political changes here in the government, as well as about things back home.

Most of them wanted to know about the CIO, and about different towns in various states. I talked for a whole day to those boys right in the trenches (the front being very quiet). One would not think we were at war, but for the occasional firing of a machine gun or rifle that kept reminding us that everything was not rosy.

On this trip one thing that struck me most was the fact that the area just occupied by the Rebel forces was almost entirely unworked by peasants in the fields behind the fascist lines; while on the other hand the peasants on the Government side have worked all the land to within the area under fire by the fascists. I think this fact, though one does not hear much about it, tells a big story—a story that will decide the final result of the war.

It seems certain that the new government will be more vigorous in three basic fields: (a) agriculture; (b) industry; (c) the army.

In agriculture they are helping the peasants get the land on the basis of each peasant having his own farm. This is done by dividing the land of the landlords who support Franco and the fascists. The government does not permit forcible collectivization of the land by the extremists (Trotskyites and some Anarchists).

It gives what aid it can to the peasantry in many ways. Because of such a policy, the peasantry is supporting the government, as is indicated by what I said at the start.

The Trotskyites and those Anarchists who try the other policy make a mess for themselves and are now talking wildly, instigating their followers to individual terror, which you know is always an act of desperation. Those people have helped none but Franco by creating the impression among the backward peasantry that it is the government which is following such a policy. This is one reason why the government is taking steps against them throughout the countryside. Meanwhile, the parties which follow the correct policy at this stage of the Spanish revolution are winning, while the other sects are losing even what support they had in the past.

For industry, definite steps have been taken by the new government which are of great importance. The war industry is being coordinated, which will permit planning and will help us all. One would expect to find a shortage of many articles of luxury, but this is not so in Spain. While it is hard to get soap and a few articles of great need, you can find all the silk materials you need. This seems ridiculous when you consider that the factories could be producing those things which are really needed to win the war. The new government is really taking steps to change all this.

As far as the third question is concerned, the army is in splendid shape. As a result, the people feel more confident than ever. We feel we are definitely on the march to victory over the forces of international fascism.

In your future letters be sure to tell me something about Scranton. You can imagine how it feels to get a letter from home. Some of our boys get three and four letters a week, while others haven't gotten a letter since they came here. I tell you it is a crime for the comrades back home not to write to every comrade here. Tell Pat that we from Philadelphia hold many of the leading posts here.

Do not worry about me. Just work hard. Tell the comrades to work ever more energetically and that *now is the time to lose no time.*

Comradely,
Steve Nelson



Dear Alice:

Love always,

Ben

June 12th, 1937.

Dear Alice:—

Have been trying to write for the last few days. Somehow I couldn't settle down to do it. The change in life has been so rapid that I found myself trying to absorb it quickly and naturally—you sort of wander around from one place to another attempting to forget the old life so it shouldn't weigh so heavily on your mind. Of course, my time will be taken up more later on and I will not find too much time to meditate as at present. Nevertheless, I can assure you that the most difficult thing is that I can't find out how you are getting along, how you feel day by day. Am seeing Joe, our old friend, almost every day. Also Butch, Karky and a few others. Steve and Al I missed by a week and if you see their sweethearts give them a message of greeting from the boys.

Our education is very rapid and interesting. If I haven't mentioned before my impressions of the country, I can only say that above all it is the people and not the land that impresses a class-conscious worker. Just imagine going through the country

and everywhere practically the tiniest kids raise their fists and yell, "Salud Comarada." Of course you have heard about it before; but when you actually face it, you get thrilled through and through. The spirit of the people is very high—especially the young generation. There is no doubt in my mind that fascism will receive the death-blow here. Of course plenty of sacrifice will have to be made. But where and when has the working class ever gained anything of importance without fighting and sacrificing? We as the most advanced section of the working class must be in the forefront of this fight. If I didn't talk to you much about this, it was because it hurt me too much to leave you all alone. Now I feel it even more, but I know I'm doing the right thing, as hundreds of others are doing.

Alice, dear, I am sure you are with me. We are still carrying on the struggle, together, only on a wider and much more separated front.

Love always—

Ben

Tielmas
June 15, 1937

Dearest,

I got your letter and Herman's last night. If you kids only knew how marvelous it feels for us to receive letters from our loved ones, you would write every day. My comrades envy me. The letters they get usually begin with the news from home that we long for and in the second page invariably say "But why bother you with petty details?" I have seen strong men cry when they reach that line.

A few days ago we left our training base and came into second reserve positions not far from Madrid. Some time today we move up a little closer. I don't know whether the censor will let this through, but we are going up to Murata to take over the positions previously held by the Dimitrof Battalion.

It was a beautiful night last night. A few of us chiselled smokes from a Spanish comrade and took candles into the field, read each other's letters and reminisced. For a few minutes my homesickness became actually physically painful. When we were feeling at our worst (and best, too) a bunch of Spanish children came to the gates of our billets and sang. These kids were Pioneers. You should hear those tikes sing! In the moment our nostalgia turned to a fierce determination to do our work and smash the fascists. These kids deserve a break. We'll give them a world to live in—not a world threatened by imperialistic war, by want, privation, fear of the future. We'll fashion for them a "bright new world."

Jesus Christ, there I go soap-boxing again. But, believe me, it's honest. You have no idea how real a slogan becomes when you live this close to the struggle. It's too bad you kids can't be here. We live every minute right up to the hilt.

I'll write more tomorrow. Pleasant dreams!

Sweetheart, you tell me that my letters are read by everybody. At first I was tempted to put in a separate page for you. But to hell with that. If I want to tell you that I love you and honor you for the way you are helping me in this struggle, I'll not only tell you, but I'll tell the world. You are already famous in the Battalion as the swellest wife and comrade in the International Brigade. It made me so happy to read in the letters I received from our comrades that your reaction to my departure was increased activity and enthusiasm in the revolutionary movement.

Your own
AL



"They gave us sickles and we cut the wheat . . .

July 3rd, 1937.

Dear Folks,

Although I answered your letter, I am writing again because whenever I get to a new place I decide to write about it. We are now in a different place than before and it is the most beautiful countryside you would want to see. When you look down from a hill you can see the fields heavy with wheat, already ripe for the harvesting; you see the olive groves, beautiful trees. No wonder the Spanish people fight so desperately to preserve their freedom.

We here are not only soldiers to help the Spanish people destroy their enemies, but we are also working in the fields, helping them harvest the wheat. They are short of men. Some villages have most of their men on the front and those who are left are certainly working hard in the fields. They work eighteen or twenty hours a day now and they don't mind it a bit because it is theirs.

At the last place where we were, we volunteered to help them, and we went out into the fields. They gave us sickles and we cut the wheat. Let me tell you, it was thrilling especially for us city guys. I enjoyed it myself so much that I hated to leave the field.

I just came back from a delightful swim in the Guadarama River. It was wonderful. The water was waist deep and clear as crystal. You don't need soap for that water, it's so soft. I decided that tomorrow I am going out there and spend the whole afternoon (if we are still in this place, that is) and do some washing. We keep ourselves pretty clean here. You can't help it, with all these nice rivers all over Spain.

Well, that is about all I can write now. I am feeling fine and dandy, high spirits and so on. I hope you are all in the best of health and I want to ask you again to write as often as you possibly can. I want to be in close contact with you.

Love,

Joe (Drill)

"Franco Says Absolute Loyalist Surrender Is His Price For Peace In Spain"

Philadelphia Record July 14, 1937

July 10, 1937.

Dear Pat,

I am writing you from the front line of fire near Madrid. It's hot as the myriad fires of hell. The class struggle and the hum of industry in nature are busy all about us.

When we flatten out on our guts for protection from shrapnel or bullets, we see the ants struggling with the beetles, or the cicadas eating one another—just as in America and elsewhere, we have "cut throat competition." The sun makes all nature very active here. It invigorates men and insects as well.

We have made some big advances here. We have had comparatively few casualties, though some of our losses have been very grave; for instance, our very brave commander, Oliver Law.

The fascists are very desperate in this decisive drive. Their airplanes pound at us mercilessly day in and day out, several times a day. They cannot smash us; they cannot crush our morale! The daily cost to Mussolini and Hitler must be an enormous sum—but we know that money is no obstacle for the fascists, who have the open or secret aid of the finance capitalists of the world.

Comrade, we know the importance of the fight we are carrying on here. But, I am sure that I express the sentiment of the Americans in Spain when I say that we are proud of the progress of the American working class and its unbending, continuously hammering leader—the Communist Party. We are overjoyed with the progress of the CIO in the major industries.

America is marching forward and we are marching with America on the battlefields of Spain. There is more than one front for democracy in the world today and America is in the forefront on many of them. The diplomats may procrastinate and terminologize while the women and children of the Spanish people are shattered and killed by the bombs of Mussolini and Hitler; while the men and youth die on battlefields; but there shall be no halt, no surrender until justice prevails!

This letter is being finished on August 3rd with my birthday (23 years) five days away and in a hospital cot. I got it in the legs on the 17th of July. Airplane bomb. Was in a bad way for a while due to a gangrene infection in the left leg. But I pulled through O.K. and am getting stronger and feeling fine. I guess you can notice the difference in writing.

Our doctors and nurses here are the world's best—they certainly perform miracles with boys you'd never expect to pull through.

I amuse myself (the great pain is over with and the danger flag is down) with singing songs that were favorites of my dad, such as—"The Letter Edged in Black" and "Wreck of the Old '97."

I guess I'll have to sign off now. Greetings to our defenders of democracy at home.

Salud,

Andrew Pape

While An Unneutral Neutrality Still Calls the Spanish War A "Nationalist Uprising"

NEWS HEADLINES:

June 28, 1937:

"Hitler Says Rebels Must Win"

"Reich to Get Spanish Ore, He Declares"

**"1500 Rebels Slaughtered by Asturian Dynamiters
in Forest Ambush"**

"Loyalists Attack Enemy with Knives in Bilbao Sector"

"Insurgents Fail to Cut Valencia Road in Tank Battle"

Albacete, Spain
July 14, 1937

Dear Mac,

Whoa! Don't bawl me out. Although I know that it's coming to me, I have a good excuse.

We are rushed so much here that we barely have time to breathe. What with rifle practice and drill and maneuvers, we don't have any time to ourselves.

I'm here almost three weeks and already I feel that I own the town. The people like us so much that they go to extremes to make our stay here as pleasant as possible.

The Mackenzie-Papenau Battalion is pretty well formed and we're only waiting for the word to go to the front lines and chase the fascists way, way back through Portugal and into the ocean. Don't laugh! If you saw how well we're getting along in our training there would be no doubt in your mind as to our abilities.

Right now Butch is getting bawled out for taking a double portion of dessert.

Today we threw a party for the kids and, Mac, you should have seen those kids enjoy themselves. We had loads of cakes and candies for them and if you don't think so—to them it was a banquet.

Butch is getting to be a crack shot on the rifle and I wouldn't be surprised if they make him a sniper. George Alberts turned out to be a machine gunner and Harry Levine is undecided whether to be just a plain rifle-man or to become a sniper. Either job would be well adapted to Harry. He's a good boy. As for me, I'm trying to become a good grenader. You know, one pineapple is worth five rifles.

Well, until I can get more time, I'll say so long. Maybe the next letter will come to you directly from the front. Here's to defeating fascists the world over—

Manuel Shapiro

Guadarama Front
July 14, 1937.

Dear Adeline,

I got your letter a few days after we took the town of Villanueva de Canada and Brunete and this is the first chance that I have had to answer you.

First, let me say that I'm still alive, healthy, strong and all in one piece—much to my surprise. However, I am quite dirty, for I have fought, slept, crawled through mud, crossed a river, worked and sweated in the same clothes for the last ten days. We may get a few days' rest soon and we certainly need it. Many of the boys that you may know are not coming back, but lie planted almost where they fell (some of my best friends included). It's tough, but we can't afford to weaken by losing hope now, for we must go on. We have been bombed, shelled, and strafed daily.

That poem you sent was wonderful. Many a time while I lay crouching and taking cover from an aerial bombardment, I would take it out and read it again and again. For sometimes the bombardment would last for hours and I dared not move for fear of giving our position away. We have read it to one another and only this morning I recited it to another boy to the tune of whining shrapnel as we both lay in a deep ditch.

Then we end off by having a look at your photo and making comments on your good looks, followed by a long discussion of the gals back home and wondering what they're doing at this particular moment.

Thanks ever so much for the poem and the photo and send some more of each in your next letter.

So long,

Harry

July 26, 1937:

"250,000 Wage Decisive Battle"

"20,000 Italians Lead Rebels in Deadly Attack"

"Franco's Men Push on From Brunete, Besiege Second Town"

"Loyalists Routed"

July 28, 1937:

"Loyalist Lost Brigade Stems Rebel Attack in Ruins of Besieged City"

"Many U. S. Volunteers Among Band Cut Off From Aid in Quijorna"

"... The Loyalists held firm today against new rebel attacks on Villanueva de la Canada."

August 7, 1937:

"Loyalists Take Offensive as Rebel Drive in Teruel Sector Collapses"

September 14, 1937:

"League Snubs Italy-Germany by Refusing to Recognize Franco"

"Loyalists Force Piracy Issue at Geneva Session"

September 27, 1937:

"Fascist Chiefs Balk at Exit From Spain"

"Germans Refuse to Make New Sacrifices for Franco's Cause"

October 18, 1937:

"France Insists Rebels Drop Four Volunteers For Every One Ousted by Foes"

"French Envoy Ordered to Stand Firm Against Nazi-Fascist Bloc"

PHILADELPHIA RECORD, March 18, 1938:

(A dispatch from rebel headquarters at Salamanca, according to the United Press, said the war would have ended with the capture of Caspe but for the resistance of the international brigades. The dispatch said the regular loyalist forces were "demoralized.")

Oct. 17th, 1937.

Dear Comrade Pat and Members of the D. C.,

I know I deserve plenty of criticism for not writing before now, but it is better late than never. At present I am in the hospital with a shrapnel wound in my foot. I got it on the 14th of October, so I guess it will be about six more weeks before I get back to the front again.

First I want to say that our American boys are real heroes and have won the praise of the whole Spanish army that is fast becoming one of the strongest in Europe—an army that knows how to attack as well as how to defend.

At present Mussolini is piling in more troops and along with his scavengers who will come down from the Basque country. After they get through murdering the working class population, he threatens to stamp out the Loyalist army. But those fascist scoundrels underestimate the will of the Spanish people to defend their country. However, it will be too large a task for the Spanish people to defeat the Italian and German fascist armies without a whole lot of help from the world working class and the Democratic governments. It therefore becomes the task of every democratic-minded person, and explicitly the task of us with Communist understanding, to insist that the U. S. Government lift the embargo and allow the Spanish Government to buy arms and equipment and food. An extreme effort must be made to have our Government demand the withdrawal of the German and Italian fascist armies.

The Spanish people have a right to expect this kind of help from us, both for our benefit and for theirs. When I see the skunks bombing defenseless towns and I see little children and women strewn about the streets with their bodies torn apart, it makes my blood boil because we cannot stamp them out at a faster tempo. But every one of those depraved acts only makes the Spanish people more determined to unify all of their forces and smash them completely.

I see from the Daily that we are making great progress with the progressive political movement. And when I read about China, it makes me feel good. The Japanese warlords will get their can twisted this time.

I hope I do not sound too agitational, because I am writing just the way I feel.

With revolutionary greetings to the D. C.,
Joe Dougher

November 1, 1937.

Hello, Comrade Toohey,

This is either the fourth or fifth letter with no answer. Hope you have time to answer this some time in the near future.

I am still in bed. Been here since July 6—don't know when I will be out. Possibly by the first of December.

I may be back in the States by the first of the year, as my leg is a couple of inches short and they may not let me return to the front.

Hope you are feeling fine. You people are doing great work back there: keep it up.

With anti-fascist greetings,

Martin Hourihan

In a hospital
Spain

Dear Al,

I am not quite well yet, but I am able to walk around a bit. I was hit with a dum-dum explosive bullet while I was trying to throw hand grenades into a fascist machine gun nest. The bullet broke practically all the ribs on my right side and made a tremendous hole in my right side below my ribs, also fracturing my collar-bone. The result is that my right chest is paralyzed and I only breathe with one lung; also I am going to be slightly deformed for the rest of my life. I am not telling you all this because I am asking for sympathy, but because I want you to realize what barbarians the dirty fascists are. They use only dum-dum and explosive bullets which tear your body to bits when hitting you, a thing which we don't do, even though we could get similar ammunition.

The first hospital I was taken to was formerly a school in a small town and the town was being bombed every day. During one of these airplane attacks I saw with my own eyes what barbarians the fascists are, and I swear that if I had ten lives I would give every one to fight fascism to its grave.

It was a very warm day and the children of the town were playing in a small court yard while the mothers sat around and enjoyed seeing the pleasure of their children. Though I was more dead than alive at the time, I was glad to have my bed by the window and felt great contentment in the happiness of the children. Without warning, out of nowhere, appeared a fascist plane and dropped three bombs right in the midst of these children, killing twenty-five, including their parents. I saw plenty of terror at the front, but this was a terror unspeakable, unforgettable. Believe me, though I may never possess two normal lungs, as soon as my wounds heal I will do everything in my power to destroy fascism and its barbarianism even though it may cost me my life. By the time you answer this letter, I will be pretty nearly well. Right now, I am very nervous. Excuse me.

Salud,

Harry Walach

In a hospital
Spain

Dear —,

I am starting this letter, but the way I feel it may take me a day or two to get it finished. I feel like hell right now. I was hit on the shinbone by a small piece of a grenade the first day we started driving the fascists back. They gave me first aid and I kept on going with the company. It didn't bother me until three days later, and then I felt like my leg was numb and dead. So I had the doctor look at it and he sent me to the base hospital and from there to the one in Madrid.

It must annoy Mussie and Hitler and Franco now that they can't shell this city. They must begin to realize now that when the world said, "Madrid will be the tomb of fascism" it spoke the truth. We are going to push the bastards into the sea and show the world what an army of workers can do.

Will try to finish this letter tomorrow. I don't feel any too good.

The first day of this push we had to leave everything except what we needed for the machine gun. And jumping from place to place day and night, if you lost anything out of your pockets it was just too bad. No one had any time to look around for his money or his watch or his mess kit. We had to change positions in a hurry so as to get the best spot to fire at the fascists. When the order is given to move, you move as fast as your legs will carry you. They keep up a steady fire, so if you stand up you take a big chance of getting a kiss from them. When your machine gun is in place you stay there with it.

The fellows are in the best of spirits. The other two English-speaking battalions in the lines are doing swell work and showing the fascists that they need more than 50,000 men from Italy and Germany to break our spirit. Because we have not only the

best artillery, aviation, and tanks, but also the best manhood of the world, such as Steve Nelson from Pennsylvania.

Steve has sure done plenty of good work in helping to build the spirit and morale of the men. You know, he led the Lincoln Battalion for three days. When Law was killed he took charge until we had a new commanding officer to take over. Steve is a very cool fighter under fire, and the men elected him to the command when we were without a leader.

Steve asked me to explain why he does not write while at the front. Number one reason is, as I explained, that you carry as little as possible. Number two reason is that Steve is working twenty-four hours a day to make sure that we get food, water, and first aid. In other words, he thinks of us before he thinks of himself.

Well, I'll close for now, for I have five more letters to write. If I get back soon to my battalion I'll try to get you a letter signed by all the boys and where they are from.

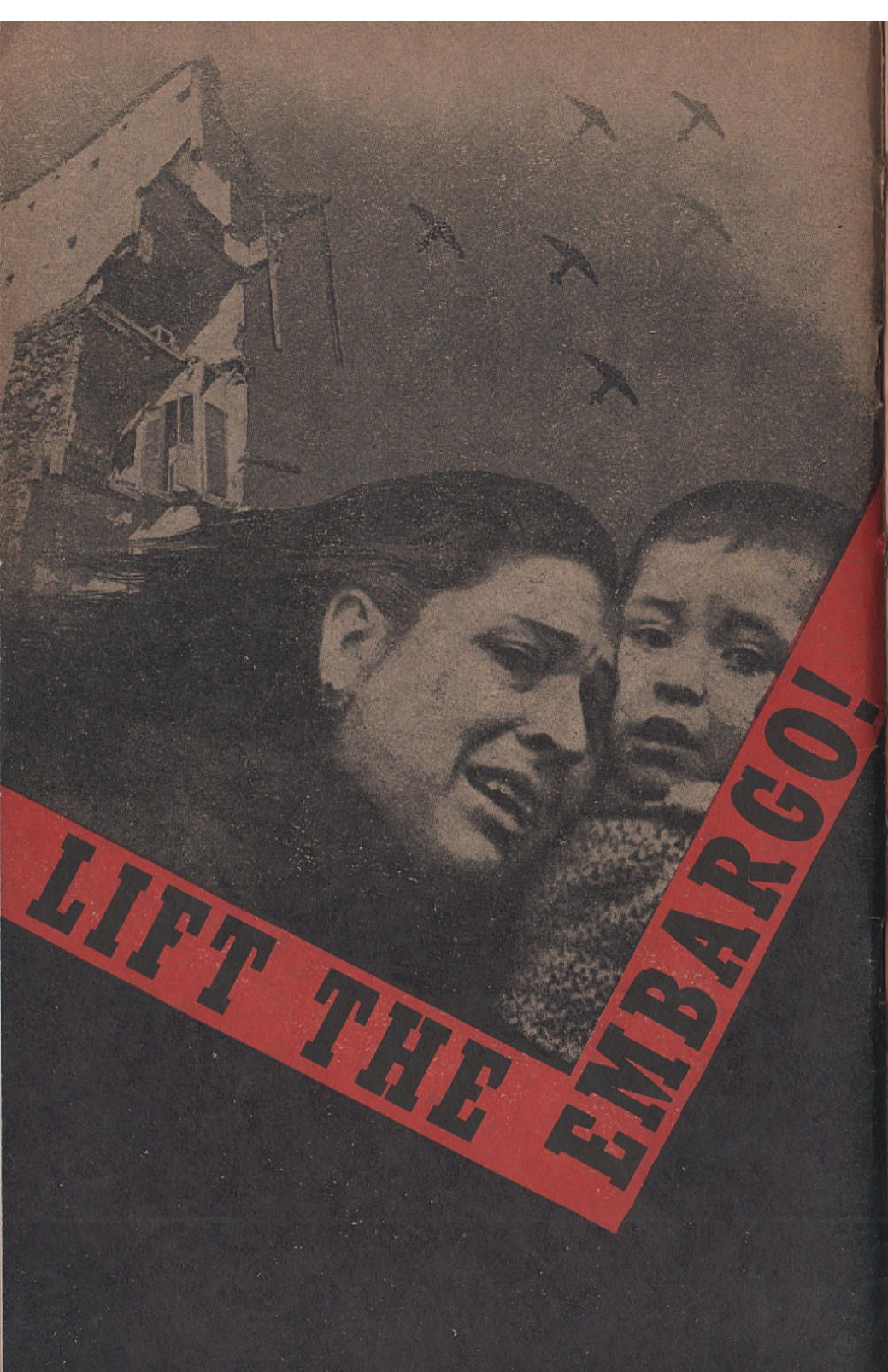
Salud,

Barney Spaulding

What Can We Do?

1. To defend democracy and help repel fascism, every Philadelphian should give the greatest aid and support to the declaration of President Roosevelt that aggressor nations should be quarantined.
2. To fight for peace we must quarantine all violators of treaties and all aggressor nations who menace the peace of all people by boycotting Japanese goods, and demanding an American embargo against the Fascist nations, Japan, Germany, and Italy.
3. We should vigorously support the O'Connell Peace Act, H. J. 527 through resolutions, mass meetings, and letters to our Congressmen and Senators.
4. We should support with every force at our command the humanitarian work of the North American Committee To Aid Spanish Democracy and the Medical Bureau to Aid Spanish Democracy. We must increase our efforts to send medicine, ambulances, food, and clothing to the people of Republican Spain.
5. We should support the great work of the Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, which works to provide elementary comforts for the American Anti-Fascist fighters in Spain, and to create a hospitalization and rehabilitation fund for these fighters.
6. We should work consistently for peace by uniting our ranks in every ward through a branch of the American League for Peace and Democracy.

7. To save our country and city from any fascist menace requires that here we unite all progressive and democratic forces into a united movement in our city and state. We should build branches of Labor's Non-Partisan League and other organizations which unite the labor and progressive forces so that in the coming elections we can effectively repel all reactionary movements and threats to our movements and organizations.
8. Finally, every Philadelphian should remember our friends and brothers who in Spain today are waging a deathless struggle against fascism. Send them regular letters and greetings, books, clippings, etc. Address them through the local office of the Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.



LIFT THE EMBARGO!